AUGUST, 1893 VOL. II., NO. 12.

The Canadian Philatelist.

PUBLISHED ON THE 25th OF EACH MONTH IN THE INTERESTS OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

SUBSCRIPTION: 25c. PER ANNUM.

L. M. STAEBLER,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,
185½ DUNDAS STREET,
LONDON, - ONTARIO, - CANADA.

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The Canadian Philatelist.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. II. NO. 12. LONDON, AUGUST 1, 1893. WHOLE NO. 24.

CHATS ON COUNTERFEITS.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Compiled from various sources.)

III.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 162.)

ICELAND.—Both the general issue and officials have been extensively counterfeited. The genuine stamps are engraved, while the forgeries are at the most poor lithographs. On the genuine stamps the 3, 4 and 16 sk. are perforated 12½, while the others are perforated 13½. The forgeries are all perforated 12½, so that in the case of the 3, 4 and 16sk. nothing can be told by the perforations. As will be noticed, the corners of these stamps are formed of lines of different lengths, making triangles. In the genuine there are twenty-four lines at the left-top corner, at the left-bottom corner twenty-eight, in the right-top corner there are twenty-six, in the right-bottom corner twenty-four. The forgeries differ from the genuine in this particular, in that there are in the left-top corner twenty-six lines, left-bottom twenty-seven, right-top twenty-eight, right-bottom twenty-six. In the genuine stamp the letter "O," in the words "POST" and "KJÖN" has an accent over it; in the forgery in neither of the two foregoing words is the accent visible. In the genuine stamp the top of the "A," in "ISLAND" is square, while in the forgery it is very sharp. In the genuine stamp the letters of value are almost as large as those in the name, in the forgery they are much smaller. In the genuine stamp the strawberry leaves are very distinct, and with the aid of a microscope the continuation of the lines of the background may be seen through the crown, between the cap and the arches. In the forgery the strawberry leaves on the crown are represented by three indistinct white blotches; and on examination the spaces between the top of the cap and the arches will be found to be quite blank. The gum on the genuine stamp is of a brownish color, while the forgery has no gum whatever. The forgeries have a decidedly suspicious appearance, and can usually be detected quite easily. The forgeries referred to are: The regular issue, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 16 sk., and 4 and 8, officials.

"*St. Thomas and Prince Islands.*" The forgeries of this place which I wish to describe are 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 and 100 reis, of the 1870 issue. The five reis the forgers apparently made separately from the other values, as it is decidedly different. I believe the following, which I have copied from *The Philatelist*, Vol. IX, will convey the desired information much better than any words of my own: "These stamps are very nicely designed, and printed, but the forgers have succeeded tolerably well in their imitations of them. The originals all seem to be from the same matrix, though the five reis may be of a different type. The genuine stamps are engraved in *espargne* (typograph), on moderately stout-surfaced, white paper; perf. 13. The little pearls in the circle, around the crown, are all strung together and are 122 in number. The accent over the E, in THOME is quite visible in all the values; but the one over the E of PRINCIPE can only be seen in the five reis. The line under CORREIO goes quite to the boundary line of the stamp on each side, as does also the line above the value. A straight line drawn upward through the crown and through the cross on top of it would just miss the E of NAME. The body of the I of reis is perfectly straight between the top and bottom cross-strokes. Above the NC of PRINCIPE, and in the three corresponding corners, there are two little circles formed by the curves in the spanduls. Each of these circles contains a tiny quatrefoil with an open dot in the centre of it. The little white space in the centre of each O in CORREIO is an oval. The letters of the name are in very thin, ornamental type. I have not seen any used copies, so cannot say what is the ordinary postmark. I had several sets from Portugal, but they were invariably unused. The gum is brownish. *Forged:* Lithographed on thin, unsurfaced paper, ungummed; perf. 13, 5 reis. I am obliged to take this value separately, as it is different from the others. It may be known from the genuine 5r. by the following tests: The letters of CORREIO are too tall, and some of them touch (or almost touch) the outline at the top; the line under CORREIO touches the boundary line on both sides of the stamp, and the line above the value touches on the left side only The right-hand end of the Etruscan ornament in the circle points towards E of PRINCIPE instead of outward. The little ornaments in the corners are wrong; all the ends pointing one way instead of inwards as the genuine ones do. The pearls are much too small and are separate. 10, 20, 25, 50 and 100 reis: all these are from the one matrix which is distinct from that of the five reis. The little pearls in the circle around the crown are separate from each other, and there are only 28 of them. In some copies there is no accent to be seen at all, and in others (the 20 and 25 reis) it is over the separate letter E instead of over the E of THOME. The lines under CORREIO and above the value do not touch the outer boundary line on either side. A straight line drawn upwards through the centre of the crown and the cross at the top of it, would pass between the E and P. The body of the I of reis widen out at the top and bottom where it meets the transverse strokes. The circles above the NC of PRINCIP, and in the other three corresponding corners have no ornament in them. The little white space in the centre of each O of CORREIO is a rectangle. The letters of the name are much too thick and very clumsy. The postmark is like our own but minus the central figures."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

THE GERMAN'S TRIBUTE.

I know they consider them lightly,
And perhaps they are correct enough ;
It may be they class them quite rightly
As that cheap continental stuff.
A thousand they buy for a quarter,
And think they are cheated at that ;
It seems to them as no great slaughter,
But profit on such stamps as that !

But I look at our own native eagle,
The eagle of duplicate heads,
The arms that our land has made legal,
And my life to a former it weds.
I see not the common red stamp, sir,
That all of them here so despise ;
But my cheeks often times will grow damper
From a mist shutting down o'er my eyes.

And I see through the midst, dimly gleaming,
The sunsets I knew long ago ;
O'er the vineyards of dear Rhineland streaming,
And the castles lit up by the glow.
There's the little thatched cot that we dwelt in,
The Fader and Gretchen and I ;
There the wide golden fields that we knelt in
As we gathered the stray sheaths of rye.

And there the long stretches of vine land,
Where we gathered the clusters, so sweet,
And the sunny-haired maidens of Rhineland
Pressed the juices beneath their white feet.
And there the broad sweep of the river,
Our own beloved, blue Rhine,
Flowing ceaselessly on forever,
Past the green fields all dotted with kine.

And when our own sunsets were glowing,
And shadows dimmed castle and hill,
The smoke from his long meerschaum flowing,
The Fader our young ears would fill
With tales of the Black Forest demon,
Of elfin, and goblin, and clown ;
And how in the Baltic, the seamen
The phantom ship saw and went down.

A common red stamp, you are saying,
But its color recalls the bright glow,
The blush of a Fraulein displaying,
One I loved in those days long ago.
Trash ! Worth not the paper and printing !
Ah, well, you can not understand ;
To strangers 'tis not ever hinting,
The memories of dear Faderland.

—CHAS. E. JENNEY.

Are your Files

Of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST complete? If not, now is the time to complete them. The supply of back numbers is small. While they last they can be had at the following prices: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 at 10c. each. Nos. 7 and 16 are 25c. each. Complete your files before it is too late.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

DRONES IN THE PHILATELIC HIVE.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

THERE is one class of collectors enrolled among us, who, while they do not retard our progress in the least, are surely doing nothing towards advancing it. They are moving carelessly about with no definite object in view, and they are only on our rolls because chance has placed them there, and they are too indolent to retire therefrom. They may be collectors who take as keen interest in their stamps as the rest of us workers. They pursue their studies idly, and with but a vague perception of what it is all worth. They live in a sphere strictly their own, and never get beyond its bounds. They are philatelic drones.

It is to be regretted that there are so many of these, and that their numbers never seem to diminish.

They seem unconscious of their idleness, and often wonder why other collectors who possess far less intellect rise to fame in the philatelic world, while they remain clouded in obscurity. They are not drones by nature, but they seem to be the victim of circumstances.

There are countless remedies for this, but I only propose to prescribe a few :

If you have been a collector for years, have a goodly collection of the gems, are a careful student of stamps, yet are known to but few outside of your own town as a follower of philatelia, why not secure the names of a few collectors in adjacent states and begin a pleasant correspondence with them on stamp matters in general ; it will not be long before you will be known and honored in the collecting world, for all will see that you are a lively collector and not a laggard.

Or better still, join some good society, your name will go forth to the outside world, through the columns of the official journal, and you will be known as an active, interested student of stamps.

Another drone is he who never writes for the philatelic press. He goes about researches, makes valuable discoveries, collects important data, yet keeps it ever to himself, never thinking for a moment that some less fortunate brother would be happy with the knowledge he might impart. Of course some of these drones may think that they have not the faculty of writing for the press, and this keeps them back. Never let this discourage you ; arrange your articles in the best language you can command, and the editor, if he be a good one, will revise your article and make it presentable before publishing it. Let your light shine!

And there are a few drones among the dealers. They have a good stock of stamps, give a good commission on sales, and are worthy of a large trade, but they are unsuccessful, and why? Because they are not appreciative of the power of printer's ink. They do not advertise, and if they do it is always where they get the cheapest rates. Generally these *low-rate periodicals* are dear at any price.

If they want to be workers in the philatelic hive, let them advertise constantly, summer and winter alike, persistently, yet prudently. Their office will soon hum with trade, and the drone will develope into a worker. Why be a drone? Others around you are laying in their supplies ; why not go out into the fields and gather in your harvests?

Let the hum of activity be heard on every side.

There's no room for drones, and unless you develope into a "busy bee." you'll meet the fate of the drone in philately as elsewhere.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

MEMORIES OF YOUTHFUL COLLECTING.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

I sometimes sigh for good old days,
The merry days of yore ;
When each new hour revealed me joys
I ne'er had known before.
When all the future seemed replete
With treasures I could clasp,
If I but chose to reach my hand
And take them in my grasp.

My album then was not, perhaps,
In Russia leather bound ;
My catalogues were out of date,
As I have later found ;
The value of the papers that
I fondly read was nil ;
The fictions I supposed were facts,
Would many volumes fill.

The hinges that I used were not
Of stylish wafer kind ;
And yet the thought of injured stamps
Had ne'er assailed my mind ;
For I had glued my specimens
With wondrous skill and care
In proper place, and I supposed
They'd stay forever there.

"Cut round" or "square"—it mattered not,
If spaces covered were ;
A half design sufficed for me,
The rest I could infer.
A label from a mustard pot,
Stood just as good a chance,
Of entering my album as
A stamp from sunny France.

Instruction came by slow degrees,
And banished all my dreams,
But still the jewel of those days
In mem'ry's casket gleams.
The wine of life has lost the zest
It had in those glad days ;
Before my feet had learned to tread
In rougher, harsher ways.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PHILATELIC WRITERS.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

THERE are a few subjects which are especially favored by all philatelic writers. These few topics are dwelt upon, regarded from various points of view, turned and twisted, until it almost seems that the themes should have been thoroughly and exhaustively considered long ago. One of the subjects to which I refer is philatelic journalism.

During the last year our stamp literature has received an unusual amount of attention. Papers and writers have been discussed by almost every wielder of the pen. Our monthlies have been analyzed and criticised and classified ; they have been praised and abused, lauded to the skies, and consigned (mentally at least), to the lowest depths of obscurity. Some of our *literati* have clamored for a greater number of journals ; others have affirmed that we were already overburdened with the products of the printing press.

Our philatelic writers have come in for their share of public attention. They have been recognized as an important factor in the stamp collecting world, and, as a result, liberal doses of commendation or of execration have been administered to them. The recipients of all this attention have conducted themselves with proper meekness and humility, as is becoming people in their station, and instead of wasting their time in useless strife and bickering, they have very industriously "sawed wood." The result is seen in the improved quality of our literature, and in the general high character of our more popular periodicals. In acting as they have, our pen pushers have shown a remarkable amount of common sense and good judgment. The same product does not please everyone, no matter how nearly perfect it may be. Tastes differ. Nine men may be pleased, and the tenth one may have feelings directly opposite in character to those of his predecessors. This fact is amusingly illustrated by a series of cartoons which once appeared in *Scribner's Magazine.*

An artist produced a comic picture which was completed with intense mirth and satisfaction. His office boy was seized with an uncontrollable fit of laughter when he observed the creation of his master's pencil. The people whose glances fell upon the caricature, as it was being carried to the editor of the funny paper, yielded to irresistible attacks of merriment. But when the editor's eyes rested upon the sheet which had called forth so many expressions of approval, he gasped convulsively and said, "Take it away, it gives me a pain."

In the philatelic world there are sometimes found people who disapprove of the very things which others have hailed with delight ; and it often happens that these individuals are the readers whose good opinions we most desire.

Because everyone does not shower encomiums upon a writer, however, he should not yield to discouragement, and, fortunately for us, the most of our writers do not.

Philatelic fiction has been earnestly and repeatedly condemned by numerous of our critics, but that is no reason why it should not be written. Philatelic poetry has been likewise condemned, but its popularity has not decreased in the slightest degree. Statistical articles have met with determined opposition from many sources, and yet they are sometimes very desirable.

In short, room can and should be found in the philatelic press for those kinds of literary diet which are demanded by differing classes of readers. We should not run to extremes, when we can best conserve our interests by preserving a wise equilibrium in the contents of our papers. Every deserving literary work, be it a poem, story, essay or compilation, should receive a cordial welcome from our editors.

Let each author choose his own pathway. Let him follow where his inclination leads, even if his work has never never been attempted and is likely to come as a surprise to his brother collectors.

We have lately seen an exemplification of the opinions expressed in this article in the Columbian issue of the *Pennsylvania Philatelist.* Such a variety of matter has never before been presented to the public in a single number of any paper. All tastes are catered to. No narrowness is apparent. Who dare say that the result is not a pleasing one?

There have recently appeared several magazines whose contents are exceedingly varied, and the regard of whose editors for all classes of collectors is as broad as is praiseworthy. Such periodicals are a comparatively new feature in our stamp-collecting world, and

they are sure to succeed. They are the very kind of monthly that has been long desired. Philatelists regard them and will regard all such with a favorable eye. They will support such papers with their pens and with their cash. We are not so selfish a clan as some people would have you believe. Merit and true worth are recognized as quickly in the ranks of our goddess' devotees as among any other class of our citizens.

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Entered at London P.O. as Second-class Matter.

L. M. STÆBLER, EDITOR & PUBLISHER.

SUBSCRIPTION.

25 cents per year to the U.S. and Canada.
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LONDON, ONT.

VOL. 2. LONDON, ONT. NO. 24.

Circulation of this Number, **2000.**

EDITORIAL.

Our Subscription List. Our subscription list is not nearly so large as it should be. We are well aware that many of our patrons are interested in the success of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST, to such an extent that they would not object to assist us in the matter of securing subscriptions. We have therefore decided to offer any person who will secure us the subscriptions of four of their friends, and forward same, together with $1, we will send the paper one year to each of the names sent, and also send you the paper one year for your trouble. If you are already a subscriber, you may have your subscription extended a year, or have the paper sent to some friend. Take advantage of this offer.

***

Special Notice. Our local customers will please observe that our office will close every Thursday during the months of June, July and August at 1 o'clock. Kindly note.

The Problem Solved. A story has been going the rounds of the philatelic press of a young lady who entered the post office, and handing the clerk a dollar, requested him to give her twice as many two cent stamps as one's, and the balance in three's. The clerk was so puzzled that he had to let the dollar go. He could have correctly given her any of the following lots: 2 1c., 4 2c. and 30 3c.; 5 1c., 10 2c. and 25 3c; 8 1c., 16 2c. and 20 3c.; 11 1c., 22 2c. and 15 3c.; 14 1c., 28 2c. and 10 3c.; 17 1c., 34 2c., and 5 3c. Though the problem at first appears difficult, a little thinking easily solves it.

***

The Bolivia Journal Stamp. We have now to expose a fraud which nearly every large dealer fell victim to. The Bolivia Journal Stamps are now known to be bogus. "As far as we can gather, the history of these stamps is a follows: The first intimation of them, we believe, was at the Paris Philatelic Exhibition of last year. A frame was exhibited there containing these stamps, and in the name of the Bolivian Government. This alone was strong presumptive evidence that they were absolutely genuine, but we are able to establish, beyond a doubt, by the aid of Monsieur J. B. Moens, and Messrs. T. H. Buhl & Co., that they are absolutely bogus. The Bolivian Legation in Paris deny any knowledge of such stamps, and there is no doubt that the man who sold them, namely, R. Moens, of Paris, entirely originated and carried out this bold swindle. One fact that led us to have additional faith in these stamps was, that on April 5th last we received from Bolivia a parcel of them, supposed to be sent us in the ordinary way to be exchanged for other sets or packets. These copies had various postmarks, but the peculiar fact was that the envelope was franked with current issue of Bolivia, rouletted, also from the date of the letter, we found it had been five months on the journey. There appears to be no doubt but that it was written in France, and sent out to Bolivia to be posted to us. R. Moens must have dated it at the time he wrote without thinking. Our esteemed *confrere*, Monsieur Moens, of Brussels, made a special journey to Paris on this case, and after full investigation, he placed the matter in the hands of Mons. André Delanney, Advocate, 51 Rue St. Anne, Paris, France, and he was successful in getting back the amount he paid. We have placed the matter in the hands of the same gentleman, and trust we shall be able to obtain the greater part of the £80 paid for the stamps we bought from R. Moens. In conclusion, we would point out that we think some slight care should have been taken by the Committee of the Paris Exhibition to ascertain that the stamps were a *bona fide* Government Exhibit. We consider that this is the cleverest swindle that has been perpetrated on the philatelic public since that arch-

swindler, Van Dyck, palmed off on many dealers and collectors the reprints of New South Wales." — *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.* The publishers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST sold a large number of these Bolivian Journal Stamps, and they will be pleased to have any customers who may have purchased these stamps from us send them back, with a note as to the price paid, and we will immediately return that amount.

***

Mexico Reprints. The market is becoming drugged with reprints of Mexico issues, 1856-61-62, fraudently surcharged and cancelled. In reference to these stamps we quote the following from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* : "It would be well for collectors to be on the look-out for Mexican reprints of the 1856-61-62 issues, as large quantities of them are being offered for sale. Heretofore it was not unusual to see reprints of the 4r. and 8r. of the above issues, unused and uncancelled ; now, however, these stamps are fraudently surcharged and cancelled, and their being treated in this way the unwary are apt to be misled. The colors of the ink in which they are printed are lighter, and in some cases different shades than the original. Most all of the varieties are sent out with the fraudulent gothic surcharges to fill the wants of those who require the 1867 issue. Coming as they do from Mexico they are very dangerous frauds. Parties in the post office, who were able to get hold of the plates, are the ones who are profiting by the deception. The Official Exhibit of Mexico, at Chicago, even contains several of the bogus stamps, which of itself shows how rare the used originals are getting to be."

***

Are you a Subscriber ? If not, we would urge upon you the advantage of at once having your name placed on our books. Every subscriber who places his subscription in our hands has the assurance of 12 numbers, or his money refunded. Gradual and steady increase in both size and quality is our aim. To make the magazine attain a high standard of excellence is our determination. We have made, and shall make every effort to secure the best and most interesting reading matter that can be procured. It will be to your interest to subscribe.

***

South African Republic. Our correspondent, Mr. S. A. Klagsburn, of Johannesburg, S. A. R, has kindly forwarded us specimens of the new half-penny Provisional, recently issued from that place. It is surcharged in both red and black, (the black surcharge being already obsolete), on the 2d. olive of the current issue, the word "half-penny" is surcharged in two lines, between two bars.

Prospectus for Vol. III. Our September issue begins our third volume. From that issue THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST will appear to much better advantage. We are about to make a large number of improvements in its make-up and contents. Among the improvements which will be introduced we may mention : Each number will be illustrated with the portrait of some prominent collector or collectors. An illustrated catalogue of U. S. stamps will be continued from month to month. This last will be an important feature. We are also making arrangements with the leading writers to supply us with original articles monthly, and on original subjects. We have in the past perhaps admitted to our columns some articles not strictly first-class. For this we are to blame. We shall carry out the above to the letter, and as a result shall have the best 25c. philatelic paper in existence.

***

Kissinger's Philatelic Postal Card. In a recent number of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST, on the strength of information furnished by our contemporaries, we stated the *Kissinger's Philatelic Postal Card* had been excluded the mails, and that the publication would be discontinued. We find that we have been in error, and hasten to correct our mistake. The facts are that it has been declared unmailable in its present form, and in future will have to be mailed in envelopes.

***

Sample Copies. A large number of sample copies of this issue are sent out to collectors who are not on our subscription books. We trust you will examine this number, and should you desire to see us regularly, forward your subscription, for we send but one sample to one person. We guarantee 12 numbers, or refund subscription. You should subscribe.

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Canada, ½d., pink, fine, unperf	1 40
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Portugal, 150 and 300 reis.	10
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